GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2488
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
BORDER TRADE
BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to develop trade and commerce between the North East and Bangladesh by opening up surface transport beyond the international border has long been lying in shelf;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Bangladesh thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) to (d) Under the bilateral Trade Agreement signed in 1980, the Governments of India and Bangladesh have agreed to make mutually beneficial arrangements for use of waterways, roadways and railways for commerce between the two countries. At present, commerce between North East and Bangladesh is taking place through notified land customs stations.In addition the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade allows for shipment of goods through inland water transport. The two Governments are committed to boosting bilateral trade and proposals under consideration include opening of additional land customs stations and strengthening of infrastructural linkages.